

Idaho Public Utilities Commission

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PUC's Kjellander to co-chair national telecom committee

Paul Kjellander, president of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, has been named one of two co-chairs on a national telecommunications committee.

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, an organization that includes commissioners and their staffs from all 50 state utility commissions, this week announced that Kjellander will co-chair NARUC's Committee on Telecommunications.

Kjellander will join Chairman John Burke of Vermont and Co-Vice Chair Orjiakor Isiogu of Michigan. He is replacing outgoing Co-Vice Chair Maureen Harris of New York, whose term expired.

The Committee on Telecommunications provides a venue for state commissioners to analyze trends in the telecommunications sector and share best regulatory practices. The committee works closely with the Federal Communications Commission, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and the FBI. In addition, the committee passes resolutions on current issues that set NARUC policy.

"President Kjellander is stepping up to serve his regulatory colleagues at a critical time in the telecommunications sector," said Philip Jones, the Washington state commissioner who is the president of NARUC. "His unique background and perspective will add an important element to our strong leadership team."

"I am excited to work with Co-Vice Chair Kjellander and welcome him to our leadership team," said Committee on Telecommunications Chairman Burke. "We are in the midst of intriguing times in the telecommunications sector, including universal service reform, rural call completion, emergency communications, and much more. Co-Vice Chair Kjellander will play an important role, along with Co-Vice Chair Isiogu and the members of our committee."

Kjellander was re-appointed to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission in April 2011 by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, following his service as administrator of the state Office of Energy Resources (OER). He previously served on the Idaho commission from January 1999 until October 2007.

Within NARUC, Kjellander has served on the Telecommunications, Consumer Affairs, and Electricity committees. He was also appointed by the chairman of the Federal Communication Commission to the Federal/State Board of Jurisdictional Separations and served as chairman. He is currently serving as a NARUC representative to the North American Numbering Council (NANC).